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Message Text

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40
ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

USIA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 FPC-01

TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 PA-03 PRS-01 /123 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ CEN/ CR: JGSULLIVAN: SLC
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APPROVED BY ARA/ CEN: DLAZAR
---------- 067750
P 132332 Z APR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: ENRG, CS
SUBJECT: ELECTRICITY CRISIS - SUMMARY OF EFFORTS

REFS: A) SAN JOSE 1254 B) SAN JOSE 1259

1. AEP AWAITING FURTHER WORD FROM ICE. SAFEGUARD GENERATORS UNLIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE. NUMEROUS COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS WORKING ON PROBLEM, AND SEVERAL HAVE EQUIPMENT ON ROUTE.
ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM OF COSTA RICAN VOLTAGE REQUIREMENTS, AND OF DETAILS OF COSTA RICAN REQUIREMENTS GIVEN FUEL SHORTAGE AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS COMMUNICATED ICE' S SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT PRATT WHITNEY GENERATORS (REF A) TO AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER - MR. KROEGER - WHO WILL NOW AWAIT FURTHER EXPRESSION OF ICE INTEREST BEFORE PROCEEDING. AEP AND ITS BANK HAVE BEGUN PRELIMINARY INQUIRIES ON FINANCING, BUT FURTHER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY ICE IS IN ORDER BEFORE CONTINUING EFFORTS. AIR TRANSPORT OF MOBILE POWER UNIT WAS INVESTIGATED BUT INVOLVED GREAT
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DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO SIZE, WEIGHT, AND COST
- BASED ON LONGER- TERM
NEED EXPRESSED FOR THIS UNIT IN REFTELS, COSTS
AND DELIVERY TIME FOR SURFACE SHIPMENT NOW BEING
INVESTIGATED. APPROVAL OF SEC WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR

AEP TO SELL UNIT AS MENTIONED IN LANE/ SULLIVAN TELCON.
MINIMUM REVIEW PERIOD IS THIRTY DAYS SINCE PUBLIC NOTICE
REQUIRED. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO ADVISE IF TECHNICAL
PROBLEMS UITH PRATT- WHITNEY UNITS CAN BE WORKED OUT SO
THAT AEP MAY BE NOTIFIED. AEP WILLING TO RENT EQUIPMENT
AT APPROXIMATELY $1,126. PER DAY, BUT COSTS OF TRANS-
PORTATION FOR THIS HEAVY UNIT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE HIGH.

3. SAFEGUARD GENERATORS OF 3.5 MEGAWATTS HAVE NOT YET
BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AVAILABLE FOR SURPLUS DISPOSAL, AND WILL
NOT BE FOR ANOTHER WEEK OR TWO. MOREOVER, DOD HAS FIRST
CALL ON GENERATORS FOLLOWED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.
HIGH DEGREE OF INTEREST EXPRESSED TO DATE IN GENERATORS
MAKES IT UNLIKELY THEY WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE FOR COSTA
RICA. NEVERTHELESS, DEPARTMENT HAS EXPRESSED ITS INTEREST
TO DOD IN GENERATORS.

4. COMMERCE HAS NOTIFIED OTHER POTENTIAL PRIVATE
SUPPLIERS OF POWER NEEDS IN COSTA RICA, AND SEVERAL
HAVE ALREADY MADE SALES. ALLIS- CHALMERS OF HARVEY,
ILL. HAS SOLD SEVEN DIESEL ELECTRIC SETS (DES) TOTALING
3.0 MEGAWATTS IN CAPACITY THIS WEEK, AND HAVE SEVERAL
MORE UNITS ON ORDER IN UPCOMING WEEKS. ALLIS- CHALMERS
DEALER IN COSTA RICA IS TRACTO- MOTIZE. IN TALKS WITH
POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS, IT IS NECESSARY TO HAVE AVAILABLE
THE VOLTAGE AT WHICH COSTA RICA WISHES TO GENERATE
POWER. TRANSFORMERS ARE OFTEN ON SHELF FOR SMALLER
UNITS IF VOLTAGE OF AVAILABLE UNITS DOES NOT MATCH
COSTA RICAN REQUIREMENTS. SEVERAL OF DISTRIBUTORS
TALKED TO INDICATED THEY WOULD GO DIRECTLY TO ICE,
THEIR SAN JOSE DISTRIBUTOR, OR TO EMBASSY COMMERCIAL
ATTACHE. DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE
SUITABLE POWER GENERATING EQUIPMENT FOR COSTA RICA.
FURTHER DETAILS ON COSTA RICAN REQUIRMENTS AND ABILITY
TO USE EQUIPMENT WOULD HELP IN THIS REGARD (REF/ A MENTIONE-
D FUEL SHORTAGE AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO THE USE OF GENERATORS.
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ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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